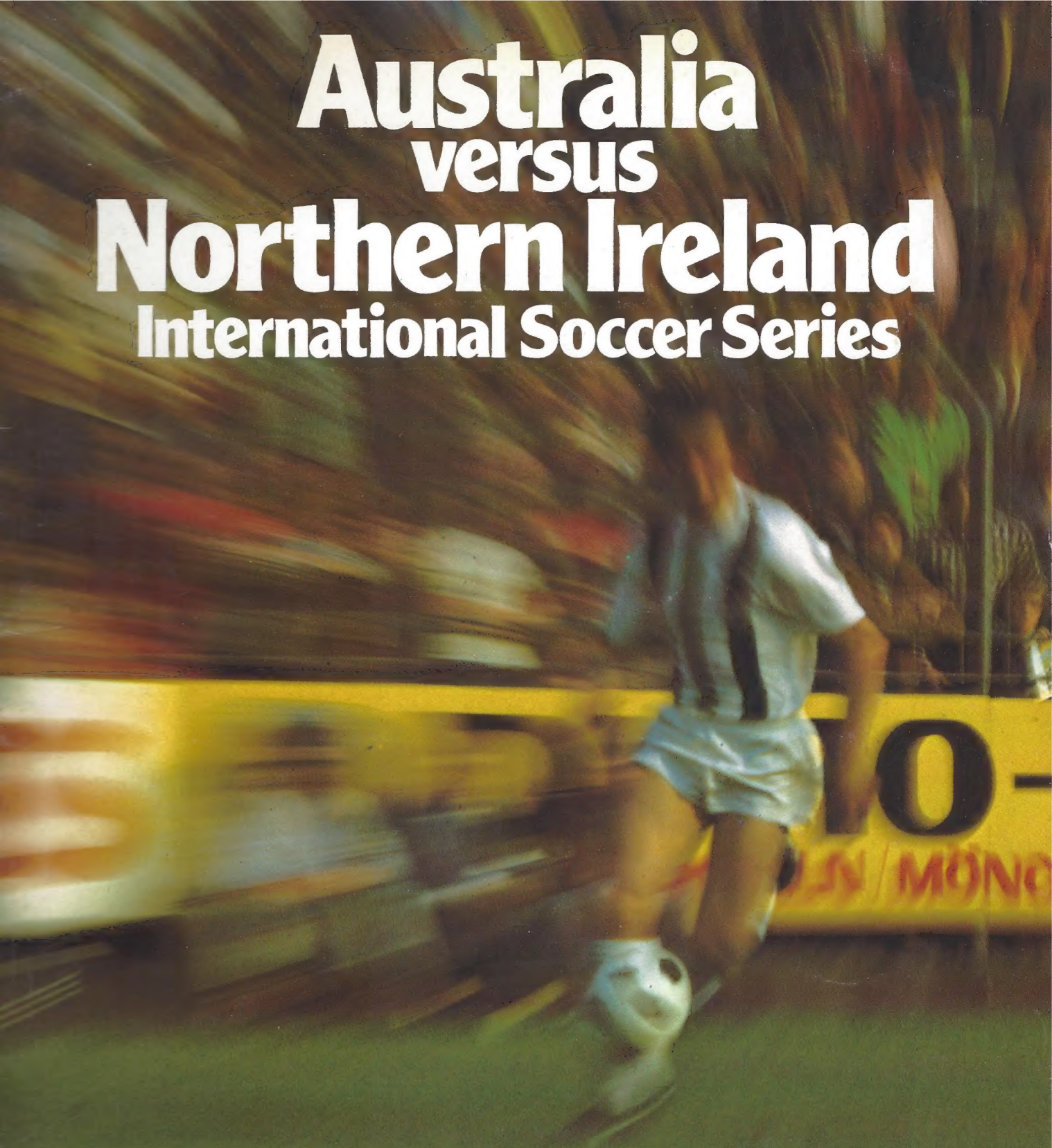
Australia versus Northern Ireland

International Soccer Series



Sydney Cricket Ground, June 11th, 1980
Olympic Park, June 15th, 1980
Hindmarsh Stadium, June 18th, 1980

Official Souvenir Programme

1880 - 1980
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION CENTENARY YEAR OF SOCCER

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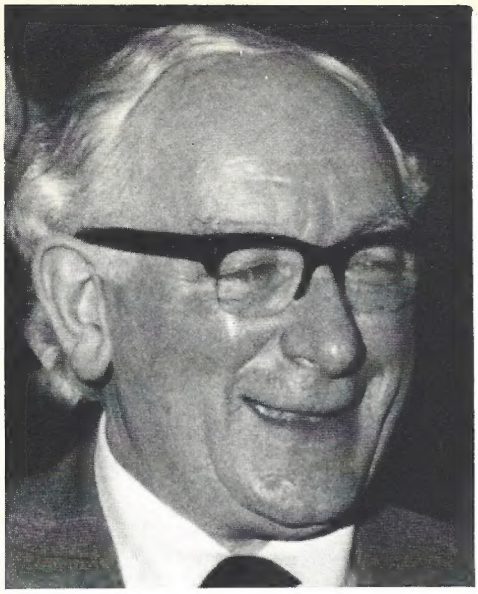


A message from the President of the Irish Football Association

This year marks the Centenary year of soccer both in Ireland and in Australia, and we are honoured to have been invited to play in Australia as part of our own Centenary celebrations. We are hopeful that your Australian team on their overseas tour later this year will accept our invitation to play a return match in Northern Ireland.

The tour will now be even more significant for us having just won the British Home Championship for the first time in over 60 years with our recently constructed squad of players under the guidance and leadership of our new manager, Mr. Billy Bingham.

Both our players and officials are looking forward to this tour in Australia, a country which has very close historical links with Ireland. There are a great number of Irish people within Australia and of course the Irish played a very prominent role as settlers and pioneers in the development of the country. We are therefore hopeful that besides crowd support for the Australian squad that our own local followers will also enthusiastically attend and enjoy this exciting three match series.

I regret that I shall not be coming with our team to Australia to give the occasion my personal support and also to renew the friendships I made on my recent rewarding trip, but on behalf of the Irish Football Association, I send the Australian Soccer Federation our best wishes in your own Centenary year and hope that your World Cup qualifying matches are a success and that we shall meet again in Spain in 1982.

Harry Cavan

A message from the President of the Australian Soccer Federation

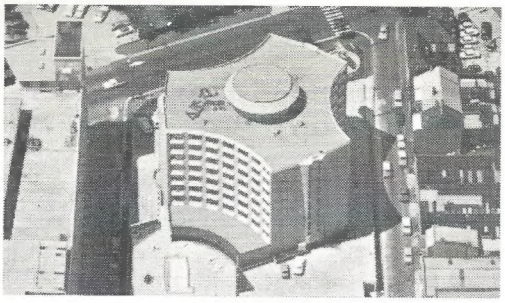
It gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome Northern Ireland, the current winners of the British Championship, led on this occasion by Mr. Samuel Walker, Vice President of the Irish Football Association, and managed by Mr. Billy Bingham.
We are deeply indebted to the Executive Committee and the International Committee for agreeing to the Irish team travelling to Australia so soon after the very heavy domestic season and the excess rigours of the British Championship.

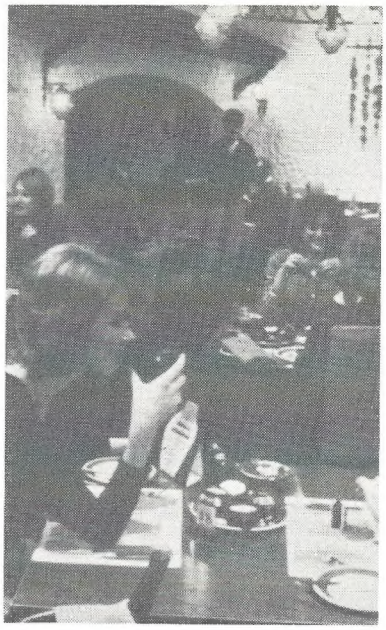
It is very fitting however that Australia and Northern Ireland should enjoy an exchange of visits as 1980 marks the Centenary of both organisations and the Australian national team is expected to play in Northern Ireland reciprocal games in November of this year.

We have always had a very close association with the Irish Football Association through its President, Mr. Harry Cavan, who unfortunately is not able to be with the touring party due to his FIFA commitments. We will however see him in this country from time to time in his position as Chairman of the World Youth Championship Committee organising the matches to be played here in Australia in October 1981.

I wish the officials of the touring party a most enjoyable stay and that the Northern Ireland players perform well and in the manner that enabled them to win the British Championship for the first occasion in 66 years and I am confident that these games will continue to assist in the development of the Australian national team and soccer in general.

Sir Arthur George





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Message from Billy Bingham

Northern Ireland Manager

I was fortunate enough to visit Australia in June of last year and was very surprised by the standard of football, particularly in the Philips League matches I watched where there are now some very talented players.

I was also very impressed with the organisation of junior and youth soccer and it is quite obvious that the sport is becoming very advanced and that slowly but surely, soccer is taking off in Australia.

Probably the most significant development and farsighted step was the appointment by the ASF of Rudi Gutendorf as National Coach, who is recognised as one of the best coaches in the world. He is a thorough professional and I am sure that his team are well prepared.

I have already received reports from Ron Greenwood and the English team following their match against the Australians in Sydney, and from their feelings about the performance of the Australian side in that game, it is quite obvious that the greatest mistake we could make is to underestimate the abilities of your national squad.

I have impressed upon my players that each of the games in the series is not to be taken lightly and that the Australians are well prepared and very fit. Plus after such a stirring performance against the English side feeling quite confident.

By coincidence both teams are playing this series as preparation for their respective World Cup qualifying matches and also of course, both our countries are celebrating their Centenary year of soccer.

We are going to Australia now as British Championship winners and this compounds the prestige at stake for our team on this tour.

Like Australia, we are reconstructing our national team in preparation for the World Cup and it consists mainly of a very young and talented squad.

We are looking forward to the tour and I can promise both Rudi Gutendorf and the Australian team that we are going to fight very hard to win this series.

Message from Rudi Gutendorf

Australia's National Coach

I have a high regard for our forthcoming opponents Northern Ireland and the manager of the team Mr. Billy Bingham. We are fully aware of the success of the team in the British Championship and the surprise they caused in winning this coveted championship from England, Scotland and Wales.

Several of the players from Arsenal did not play in the final match against Wales and are not on tour in Australia but this does not weaken the team which was able to win the British Championship on its merit.

I am very proud of the manner in which the Australian team fought back against England in the second half of that memorable match and I will concentrate on using the players that participated in the second half to play against the visitors in the first match tonight. We expect a very hard game and in fact three hard games which include matches in Melbourne and Adelaide within the next 7 days.

I appreciate the decision of the Irish Football Association to bring its football team to Australia to help in our preparation for the forthcoming World Cup matches and I am especially grateful that it has agreed to stage two matches in Northern Ireland later this year as part of our European tour by the national squad.

I wish Billy Bingham and his boys a very enjoyable stay in Australia.

1880-1980
ASF
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION CENTENARY YEAR OF SOCCER

NORTHERN IRELAND

Martin O'Neill

Nottingham Forest

Has matured amazingly since coming under the control of Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest. Possesses pace, power and an explosive shot. Has the ability to switch the fortunes of a game with one devastating move. Began his career with Distillery, Ireland's oldest professional club.

Jim Platt

Middlesborough

Invariably the best man—never the groom. Like so many other Irish goalkeepers he has hovered in the shadow of Jennings but there is never a complaint from him. He reckons it is an honour to be understudy to 'the big man'. With only four caps he has recovered his zest for the game after going through a lean spell and is now firmly re-established at Ayresome Park.

Chris Nicholl

Southampton

Joined the Northern Ireland squad in 1974-75 against Sweden in Stockholm when with Aston Villa, became an immediate success and since then has been a key figure in the central defensive system with a fantastic ability to score goals from set piece situations. Speaks with an English accent but there is no more ardent Ulsterman once he puts on that green jersey.

Jimmy Nicholl

Manchester United

Although 22 he has been an integral part of the Northern Ireland team—a player highly regarded by manager Billy Bingham for his versatility either as a sweeper, full back or midfielder. Captained Northern Ireland's Under 21 team against the Republic of Ireland two seasons ago. Now a regular in the Manchester United side with whom he won an FA Cup medal. Young in years, nobody however possesses more football maturity than this redhead from East Belfast.

John O'Neill

Leicester City

Joined Leicester City four years ago. A native of Londonderry, he was groomed as an international by former manager Danny Blanchflower. Played first as an Under 21 international when his full potential was realised. The obvious successor to Allan Hunter as Northern Ireland's main central defender.

Tommy Cassidy

Newcastle United

Joined Newcastle from Glentoran. His career at St. James Park has been one of ups and downs — an amalgam of triumph and tragedy. Now, however, he is making a valuable contribution to United. Strong and resourceful, he has the ability to hit goals from long range.

David McCreery

Queen's Park Rangers

Known to his team mates as 'Wee D' he is the all-action footballer — aggressive with a high workrate and the perfect choice for a close shadowing job. Member of a famous East Belfast footballing family. Moved to Manchester United as a schoolboy and then to Queen's Park Rangers at the invitation of ex-manager Tommy Docherty. Can always be relied upon to give 100 per cent effort—and more.

Tom Sloan

Manchester United

Another product of the Under 21 international squad. Signed by Manchester United from Ballymena United after a recommendation from Blanchflower. Possesses good acceleration and a plentitude of skill. Rated at Old Trafford as a player with a future.

Gerry Armstrong

Tottenham Hotspur

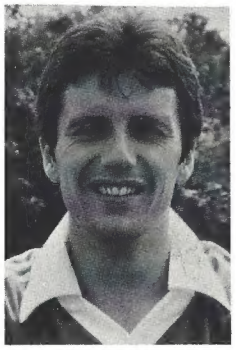
Just completed one of his most effective spells at White Hart Lane since being transferred from Bangor while Terry Neill was in charge of Spurs. He can be really lethal—one of the most successful Irish centre-forwards, a position which has created problems for years. His progress has been

remarkable; a man of self discipline and dedication. Born into a gaelic football family with no soccer traditions or background—and it was in that sport that he got a baptism with a ball. Tottenham have used him as centre-half and full-back but he prefers the striker's role.

Noel Brotherston

Blackburn Rovers

Has no regrets at leaving the glamour of Tottenham Hotspur where he languished in the reserves—even entering the comparative obscurity of the Third Division. Life has been difficult for him in football but at last he has succeeded in making a decisive impact. He emerged on the scene as a Northern Ireland Youth international during the European Championship Finals in Switzerland five years ago. Joined Spurs straight from school in East Belfast.



Terry Cochrane

Middlesborough

Transferred from Burnley to Middlesborough for a club record fee of £ 210,000 — first Northern Ireland player valued at that amount. An elusive, highly skilful ball player who can be volatile at times. Now won for himself a regular place as a winger in Northern Ireland's attacking set up.

Tommy Finney

Cambridge United

Striker with a famous footballing name. Often referred to as the 'forgotten man'. Finney has been brought in from the cold first by Blanchflower and now again by Billy Bingham. Transferred originally from Belfast club Crusaders to Sunderland.

Billy Hamilton

Burnley

Only 22 has made a name for himself at Burnley after his transfer from Queen's Park Rangers. Spent four years with Irish League champions Linfield and was in the third year of a degree course training to be a teacher when the transfer to QPR materialised.

Bryan Hamilton

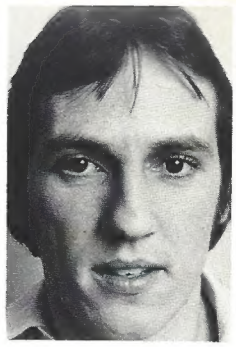
Swindon Town

A player of invaluable assistance to manager Danny Blanchflower, who drafted him into a full-back position a year ago as an emergency. He proved a wonderful success—a real professional. Has served his country with distinction since first capped in 1970-71 against Cyprus. Previous clubs—Linfield, Ipswich Town, Everton and Millwall. Now player-coach at Swindon.

Derek Spence

Blackpool

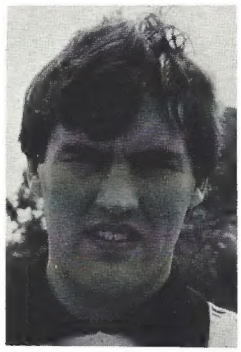
Nobody puts more drive and energy into their game than Spence—or Gusty as his colleagues call him. Joined Blackpool last season after a spell with the Greek club Olympiakos; previously played for Oldham Athletic, Bury and Crusaders. First capped against England in the 1974-75 season.



Colin McCurdy

Linfield

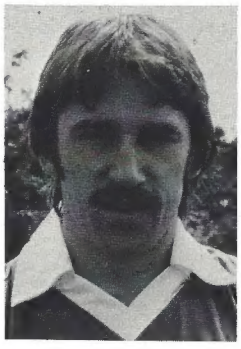
Striker; another Billy Bingham discovery, and another of the younger Irish brigade. A fast and fearless striker.



George Dunlop

Linfield

Reserve goalkeeper — age 23. A consistent performer for Linfield in the Irish League. Played in the memorable European Cup match against Dundalk in 1979 when after a 1-1 draw away at Dundalk the return match had to be played in Holland, because of the troubles in Northern Ireland. Big lad, good anticipation and agility.



John McClelland

Mansfield

One of the new young brigade in the Irish lineup. A discovery of present Irish team manager Billy Bingham and a player with a bright future.

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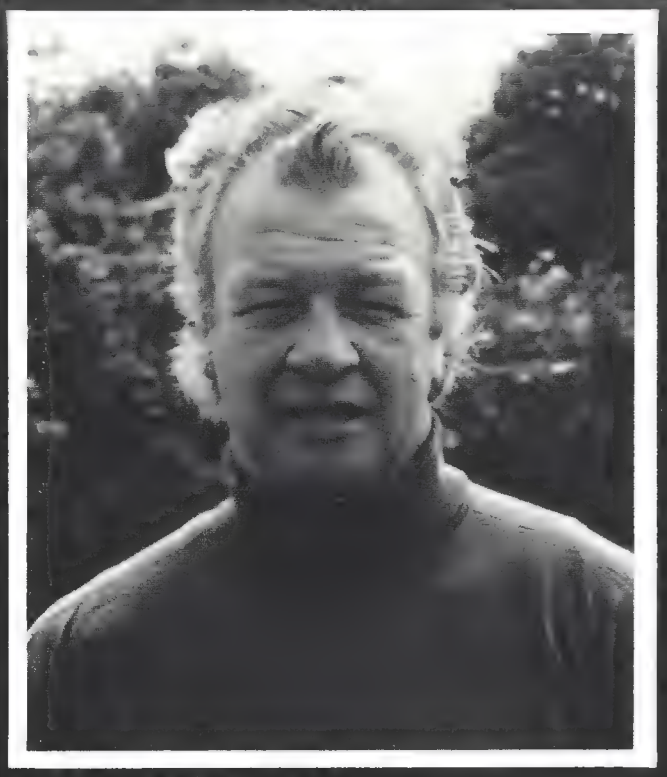
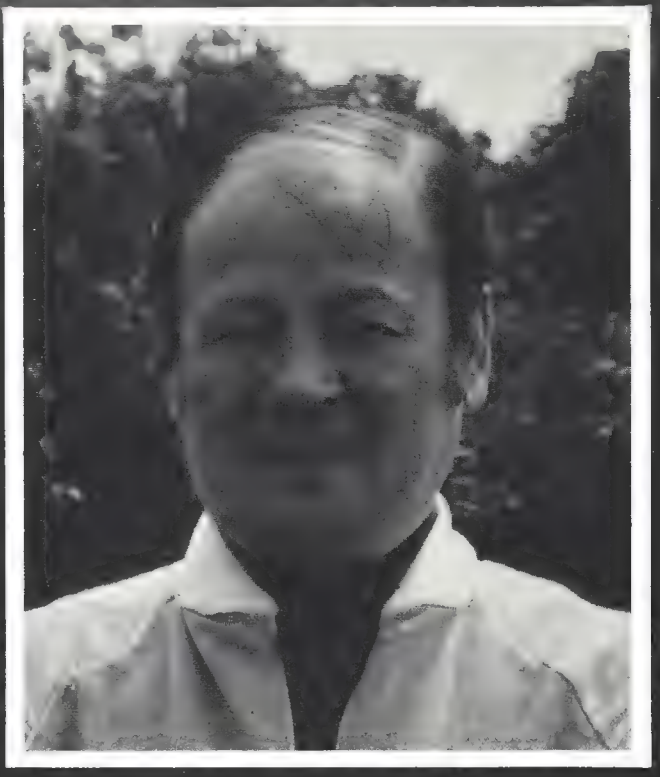


Billy Bingham

Birthplace: Belfast, Northern Ireland. Age: 48.

Billy Bingham has played for Sunderland, Luton, Port Vale and Everton football clubs and his honours include gaining 56 Northern Ireland caps, a 1959 FA Cup Finalist's Medal and a First Division Championship Medal in 1962.
He has worked as a manager with Plymouth, Southport, AEK Athens, Everton, Paok Salonika, Mansfield, the Greek national team and is now with Northern Ireland for the second time.
The last time Northern Ireland qualified for the World Cup finals, Billy Bingham was a player; that was in 1958 and now, in his second spell as the Northern Ireland team manager, his target is Spain 1982. His latest triumph was to shock British football last month when he led Northern Ireland to their first British Championship for 66 years, by beating Scotland and Wales and drawing with England at Wembley.



Bobby McGregor

A family man who lives near Belfast, Bobby McGregor is popular with all the Irish squad. He has been the team physiotherapist for a number of years with around 100 games under his belt. As well as the Northern Ireland team, Bobby also looks after the players of Glentoran in the Irish League.

Jack Balmer

Jack Balmer—"The Big Man"—is the team doctor and, like Bobby McGregor, has looked after the Irish squad for years. Although known to the Irish team as "Doc", he is in fact a surgeon with a top Belfast hospital. He is obviously dedicated to the game as he is also involved with football at club level as chairman of Glenavon Football Club.

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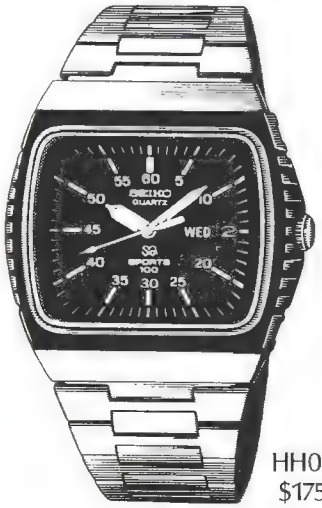

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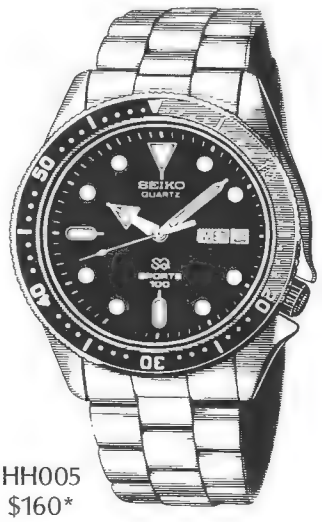

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Northern Ireland Team

Back row L to R:
Sammy Walker, Dr. Jack Balmer, Mal Donaghy, Gerry Armstrong, John O'Neill, George Dunlop, E. McManus, Jim Platt, Chris Nicholl, Billy Hamilton, John McLelland, Bob McGregor, Derick Wade.
Front row L to R:
Tom Finney, Tommy Cassidy, Terry Cochrane, Sammy McIlroy, Billy Bingham, Noel Brotherston, David McCreery, Tom Sloan, Jimmy Nicholl.

Australian Team

Back row L to R: *Alan Davidson, George Christopoulos, Gary Cole, Arno Bertogna, Jim Muir.*
Middle row L to R:
Charlie Jurisic, Greg Woodhouse, Ivo Prskalo, Mark Jankovics, Eddie Krncevic, Tony Henderson, Theo Selemidis, Yakka Banovic, Les Sheinflug.
Front row L to R:
Jim Tansey, Steve Perry, Jimmy Rooney, Rudi Gutendorf, Ken Boden, John Yzendoorn, Peter Sharne.

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The British International Championship is the oldest competition of its kind anywhere in the world and has been held annually apart from the war years, since the 1883-84 season.

Thus it has survived for close on 100 years and the basic formula has remained the same with only slight adjustments. Each country has played the other three once during the season concerned.

The chief variations have occurred in comparatively recent years. Matches used to be fitted in at various points throughout the season, but in 1969 it was decided to provide a boost to the tournament by staging it in one week at the season's end.

Then in 1978-79 it was further adjusted to dispense with sharing the title for teams which finished level on points at the top of the four countries table. Therefore goal difference now provides an outright winner.

In fact the beginning of the British International Championship was a natural progression after individual countries began playing friendlies against each other. For example the first official international between England and Scotland on 30th November, 1872, which ended strangely enough a goalless draw, was the start of competition between two of them.

Indeed this England v Scotland match has become the fixture which in itself is unique to any other confrontation in the world. But it was only the beginning of links between the others involved among the four home countries.

On 25th March, 1876 Scotland met Wales for the first time in Glasgow and beat them 4-0. Nearly three years later it was the turn of England to play the Welshmen at Kennington Oval on 18th January, 1879 and defeat them 2-1.

Wales completed their hat-trick of appearances against their rivals when they had a handsome 7-1 win over Ireland on 25th February, 1882 in Wrexham. And there was another drubbing for the Irish on the occasion of their first match on 18th February, 1882 when England won 13-0 in Belfast.

This has remained the record score in an international between any of the four countries and was a personal triumph for two Aston Villa players Howard Vaughton who scored five times and Arthur Brown had four to his credit.

However, the match which finally meant that all four were to play each other regularly arrived on 26th January, 1884 with Scotland winning 5-0 in Belfast, against Ireland, to complete the competition of the quartet.

In fact, the Scots succeeded in taking the first title with a maximum of six points having beaten England 1-0 in Glasgow previously and defeating Wales 4-1 at the same venue after the Ireland game.

A 3-1 victory over Scotland clinched the Championship for England last year and it was a delighted England team manager, Ron Greenwood, who posed for this picture with the trophy. Greenwood, however, had to hand it to the Irishmen this year.

An interesting point about this first tournament was that it was played in the period of February and March in 1884, though the Scots achieved their treble in the space of only 14 days.

There was no appreciable change to the pattern until after the First World War when the tournament resumed. The first official game was between England and Ireland on 25th October, 1919 in Belfast and ended in a 1-1 draw. It was the first time England had played a full international before Christmas since their very first fixture against Scotland in 1872.

It was the start of a further stretching of the programme of the four over the season itself and it remained virtually untouched as such until 1969 when for the first time the entire competition was held one week in May.

Over the years England have been the most successful country in terms of their number of tournament successes. Of the 84 competitions held and completed before this season, they have won 32 of them outright, compared with Scotland's 24 and Wales' seven. Ireland had won it just once—before the First World War—until the boys in Billy Bingham's charge finished shock winners of the 1980 tournament just a few weeks ago.

Of those tournaments which provided shared titles, England have been concerned in all 20 of them, Scotland 17, Wales and Ireland five each. In 1955-56 the first and only quadruple tie ended with the four countries all on three points.

The six matches which comprise this competition are not only individually one-sixth of the whole, but in themselves provide a rivalry which is much championed by the two particular opponents in them. The Scots can claim for example that though they have a higher number of victories against England overall, the International Championship as such still has England with the better record.

All four can look back on periods of some domination. Even Wales in the 1920s and 1930s were a force with which to be reckoned. But neither England nor Scotland have been able to prevent each other from ending a sequence of success before it has threatened to become a runaway list.

With the refinements which have been made in the last few years there seems little doubt that the competition will continue to survive well past its centenary and provide an entertaining end of season tournament for spectators and a much needed source of revenue for the associations involved.

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Danny Blanchflower, most articulate of men whom the late Nancy Spain once said not only kissed the Blarney Stone but ate a piece of it as well, described the Irish Football Association, now celebrating its centenary, as "a happy family, rich in characters". It was an apt assessment.

Although numerically small, the influence and prestige of the Irish FA has spread throughout the world since that day in November 1880 when a progressive-thinking group of men met in the Queen's Hotel, Belfast, to form the Association. It has played a significant part in developing the Laws of the Game and, belying the theory that all Irishmen love a fight, has often acted as peacemaker in international disputes.

Remember that day at Wembley in 1966 when the Argentinian centre-half Rattin refused to leave the pitch after being ordered off. Who sorted out the problem? Irishman Harry Cavan president of the Irish FA and senior vice-president of FIFA!

It has been a colourful history made up of equally colourful personalities. For years, especially in the early era, the Irish FA however, was merely a minor body content to look after domestic problems, rarely attempting to assert itself beyond the geographical boundaries. Now it plays a vital and, at times, key role in world affairs.

Football in Ireland owes much to the Scots who fostered its development. Indeed, it was an exhibition by Queen's Park and Caledonians at the Ulster Cricket Grounds and sponsored by a rugby club which led to the formation of the first club Cliftonville! Almost instantly others mushroomed throughout the island.

Until 1921 as the political scene bubbled and boiled, the Irish FA governed the entire country. Southern clubs broke away, established the Irish Free State FA, now the Football Association of Ireland and international teams of both areas were composed of players from all parts of Ireland. Frequently, you had the absurd situation of a player appearing for Northern Ireland in Belfast on a Saturday and next day perhaps, turning out for the Republic in Dublin. All that ended in March 1950 with selection confined to birth within the political jurisdiction.

The Irish FA competes in the British Championship, the revenue from which is the financial lifeblood, winning it once, in 1913-14 and sharing on five other occasions, 1902-03 with England and Scotland; 1955-6 with England, Wales and Scotland; 1957-8 with England; 1958-9 with England and 1963-4 with England and Scotland.

CENTENARY

Against foreign nations, however, there has been much more success. Since 1921 Northern Ireland has played 72 matches, including 36 in the World Cup, against 26 foreign countries, with this record: 28 wins, 17 draws, 27 defeats, scoring 98 goals, conceding 94.

Everest of achievement was, of course, the 1958 World Cup series in Sweden. The side, managed by Peter Doherty, won its qualifying section against Italy (0-1, 2-1) and Portugal (1-1, 2-0). Twice the Italians had to play in Belfast with the first match relegated in status from a World Cup tie to a friendly when the Hungarian referee Istvan Zsolt became fogbound in London and could not reach Belfast in time. Spectators invaded the pitch at the end; some Italians alleged they had been assaulted and questions were even raised in their Parliament.

Northern Ireland lost in the quarter finals to Raymond Kopa, Juste Fontaine-inspired France because they lacked sufficient reserves, four players being forced to go into the fray only 50 per cent fit. It was a performance which eliminated the 'poor relations' label although since then there has never been the same concentrated success — rather a catalogue of the odd upset or draw, but, generally, it has been a struggle, a case of being also rans.

Results in Sweden were v Czechoslovakia 1-0; v West Germany 2-2; v Argentina 1-3; play off v Czechoslovakia 2-1; quarter final v France 0-4.

Doherty was Northern Ireland's first manager, being succeeded in 1962 by Bertie Peacock (Glasgow Celtic). He was followed by Billy Bingham 1967-71, Terry Neill 1971-75, Dave Clements 1975-76 and Danny Blanchflower 1976-9. Bingham, of course, took charge again in January last.

All were outstanding players with flame-haired Doherty an inside forward par excellence and Blanchflower an immortal of the game. There have been many others in that category who have worn the Ireland colours — first royal blue and then changed to green in the 1930s.

George Best, arguably the greatest of all players, the Nureyev of football, has no

Derek Dougan, the highest individual scoring Irishman in English football, pictured with Bobby Moore as the pair lead out their respective sides for the 1971 Northern Ireland v England clash.

George Best "arguably the greatest of all players, the Nureyev of football, has no peers so far as any Irishman or woman is concerned".

CELEBRATION

peers so far as any Irishman or woman is concerned. Then there was that "Clown Prince of Football" Charlie Tully (Glasgow Celtic), Mickey Hamill (Manchester Utd.), Billy Gillespie (Sheffield Utd.), Tommy Breen (Manchester Utd.), Davy Cochrane (Leeds Utd.), Joe Bambrick (Chelsea), who holds the international goal scoring record of six set up against Wales in 1930, man of many clubs Derek Dougan, highest individual scoring Irishman in English football, Harry Gregg (Manchester Utd.), Bill Lacey (Everton and Liverpool), Elisha Scott (Liverpool), Alex Stevenson (Everton) and Jack Vernon (West Bromwich Albion). The list is interminable. Until the start of the Home Countries series six Irishmen have attained the 50-cap mark and they, too, are players who measure up to and surpass many in the game. They are Pat Jennings (Arsenal 83), Jimmy McIllroy (Burnley 55), Billy Bingham (Sunderland, Luton Town, Everton, Port Vale 56), Allan Hunter (Ipswich Town 53), Blanchflower 56 and Neill 59. Jennings, rated at one stage the world's greatest goalkeeper, could become the first to hit the magical 'ton'.

The Irish FA—Billy Drennan is the longest serving secretary in football—with its 900 member clubs, including 12 in the semi-professional Irish League but excluding those attached to schools and boys' clubs, a 42-member Council and 13-member Junior Committee is in the midst of its centenary celebrations.

An official illustrated history has been published and a photographic exhibition, one of the most comprehensive ever in football, has toured throughout the Province. After this visit to Australia the climax will be the World Cup ties against Sweden in Belfast next October, a match doubling as the commemorative one.

Vibrant and flourishing the Irish FA has made an impact on world football far beyond the wildest dreams of those men of foresight who in 1880 brought organised soccer to Ireland. Here's to the next century!

by Malcolm Brodie, Sports Editor, Belfast Telegraph

Malcolm Brodie, has covered all Northern Ireland's international matches since 1942 and all World Cup finals series since Switzerland, 1954. He is president of the Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association; FIFA Press Liaison Officer for Britain. Was awarded the MBE for his services to sport.

NORTHERN IRELAND

6	John O'Neill
12	Martin O'Neill
1	Jim Platt
17	George Dunlop
2	Jimmy Nichol
5	Chris Nichol
3	John McClelland
10	Tommy Cassidy
8	David McCreery
4	Tommy Finney
14	Terry Cochrane
7	Noel Brotherston
9	Gerry Armstrong
11	Billy Hamilton
15	Tom Sloan
18	Derek Spence
19	Colin McCurdy
16	Bryan Hamilton

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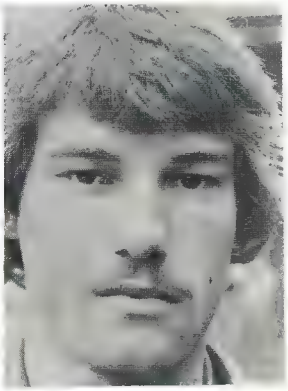
AUSTRALIA

1	**Greg Woodhouse** (Sydney)
1	**Yakka Banovic** (Melbourne)
5	**Ivo Prskalo**
2	**Steve Perry**
17	**Kevin Mullen**
4	**Tony Henderson**
6	**Jim Muir**
13	**John Yzendoorn**
3	**Jim Tansey**
10	**Jim Rooney**
11	**Mark Jankovics**
16	**Theo Selemidis**
12	**Ken Boden**
7	**Peter Sharne**
14	**Murray Barnes** (Syd.) (17 Adel.)
15	**John Coyne**
8	**Gary Cole**
9	**Eddie Krncevic**
14	**Alan Davidson** (Melbourne)
5	**George Christopoulos** (Melb.)
1	**Martyn Crook** (Adel.) (20 Melb.)
14	**John Nyskohus** (Adelaide)
8	**John Kosmina** (Adelaide)
20	**Peter Marshall** (Adelaide)

1880-1980
ASF
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION CENTENARY YEAR OF SOCCER

AUSTRALIA



Greg Woodhouse

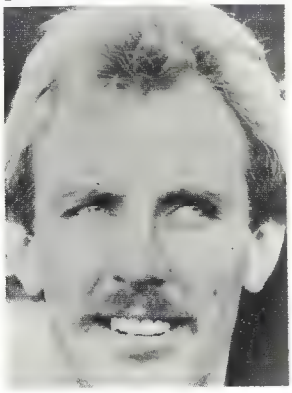
Born 2.1.60

Emerged to international recognition with a series of outstanding displays in the Australian Youth Squad which contested the FIFA World Youth Tournament preliminary matches in New Zealand and in Paraguay. Has since graduated to the senior team and continues to improve on each outing. Still has a few rough edges which will disappear as more and more big match experience is obtained and Greg certainly has a big future ahead of him.

Martyn Crook

Born 16.11.56

Came to Australia at the age of 8 years and has learned all his soccer in this country. His team, West Adelaide, is currently in the doldrums and it has been a difficult season for this young player. His form this season has not been on a par with the latter half of the 1979 season and he will need to work very hard to retain a place in the final squad.



Tony Henderson

Born 14.1.54

Has a great deal of experience some of which he gained during a stint in South Africa. He then played with Canberra City before being selected by Rudi Gutendorf to gain his first international cap. Regrettably Henderson has been plagued with a nagging injury for the latter part of the 1979 season and the earlier part of this year. He is now fully recovered and will take his rightful position in his attacking midfield role.

Ivo Prskalo

Born 2.1.48

A player of outstanding experience and knowledge of the game, experience which was gained by playing in First Division football for Yugoslavia. Since moving to Australia he has been recognised by coach Gutendorf as a key player. He has been voted Player of the Year in 1979 after taking Marconi to the top of the Philips League table. Prskalo with his wealth of experience will prove to be a very valuable acquisition in the Australian team over the next two-year period.

Jim Tansey

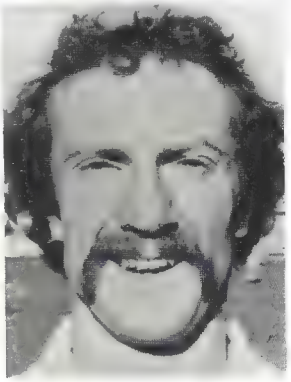
Born 8.8.53

First emerged as a serious contender for the left-back position when selected by former coach Jimmy Shoulder. After the unsuccessful World Cup bid in 1977 it appeared that Tansey would drift into the international shadows but with some tremendous performances for his club Heidelberg he has ensured himself a regular place in the Australian team due mainly to his rugged defensive tackling and his very quick forays along the left flank. He is a very dangerous opponent.

Jim Muir

Born 30.1.49

Has recently moved to Marconi where he has added considerable toughness to the defence and has made a great job of replacing the injured Tony Henderson. Is under consideration for the Australian first team squad but has yet to thoroughly prove himself in the eyes of the National Coach. Perhaps the series of matches against Ireland and Chile will provide this opportunity.



Steve Perry

Born 5.5.54

Having a wonderful revival with Brisbane City Club and has through pure hard work and dedication fought himself back into the Australian squad after being on the fringe of regular selection for many years. This determination and sheer hard work approach of Perry caught the eye of coach Gutendorf and in recent matches Perry has provided a number of notable performances for Australia.

Jimmy Rooney

Born 10.12.48

A true professional and no player has given more valuable service to the Australian National Team than Jim Rooney. He is currently having a very successful season with his club Heidelberg. Once again we are assured of seeing a 100% performance from this fine player.

Peter Sharne

Born 23.3.56

This player is a wonderful tribute to the Marconi youth policy and also to the attacking flair that the Marconi club has brought to the Philips Soccer League. In this environment Sharne has been able to use his speed and ball control and is causing havoc amongst opposition full-backs. There is a big future ahead for this player and he can contribute a great deal to our possible success in the World Cup matches ahead.

Alan Davidson

Born 1.1.60

A find of the young Socceroos' World Youth Tournament experience in New Zealand and South America. Has since developed into a fine midfield player regularly keeping his spot in the powerful South Melbourne side. Has a big future.

Gary Cole

Born 5.2.56

A player who has risen particularly quickly to the peak of Australian soccer. He is having a tremendous season with his club Heidelberg and has performed extremely well when playing for the Victorian State team against many visiting touring teams.

1880 - 1980

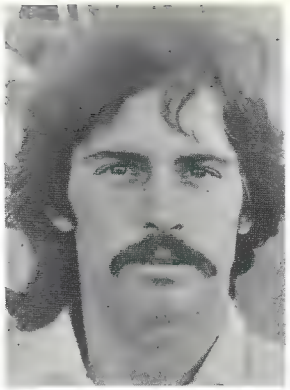
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION CENTENARY YEAR OF SOCCER

Big in stature and in courage, Cole will cause havoc to any defence if he is allowed to use his speed and to be left in the slightest way unmarked. He is sure to play a major part in any success the Australian team will have in the international matches ahead.

Eddie Krncevic

Born 14.8.60

Played in the Australian Youth Team in New Zealand in 1978 and in Paraguay in early 1979. As a result of his performances then and his continued good form with the Marconi club, as predicted by National Coach, Rudi Gudendorf, he has forced himself into the Australian first team squad. Naturally a player who draws as many goals as Krncevic does becomes a target for rough and aggressive defensive play and of late he has experienced some of the problems that can arise from this close attention.



Murray Barnes

Born 16.1.54

Tall central defender who has caught the eye of coach Gutendorf in recent months and has regained his position in the Australian squad after some exciting displays with his club Sydney City in the current season. He is a hard seasoned campaigner who has been capped on 17 occasions.

George Christopoulos

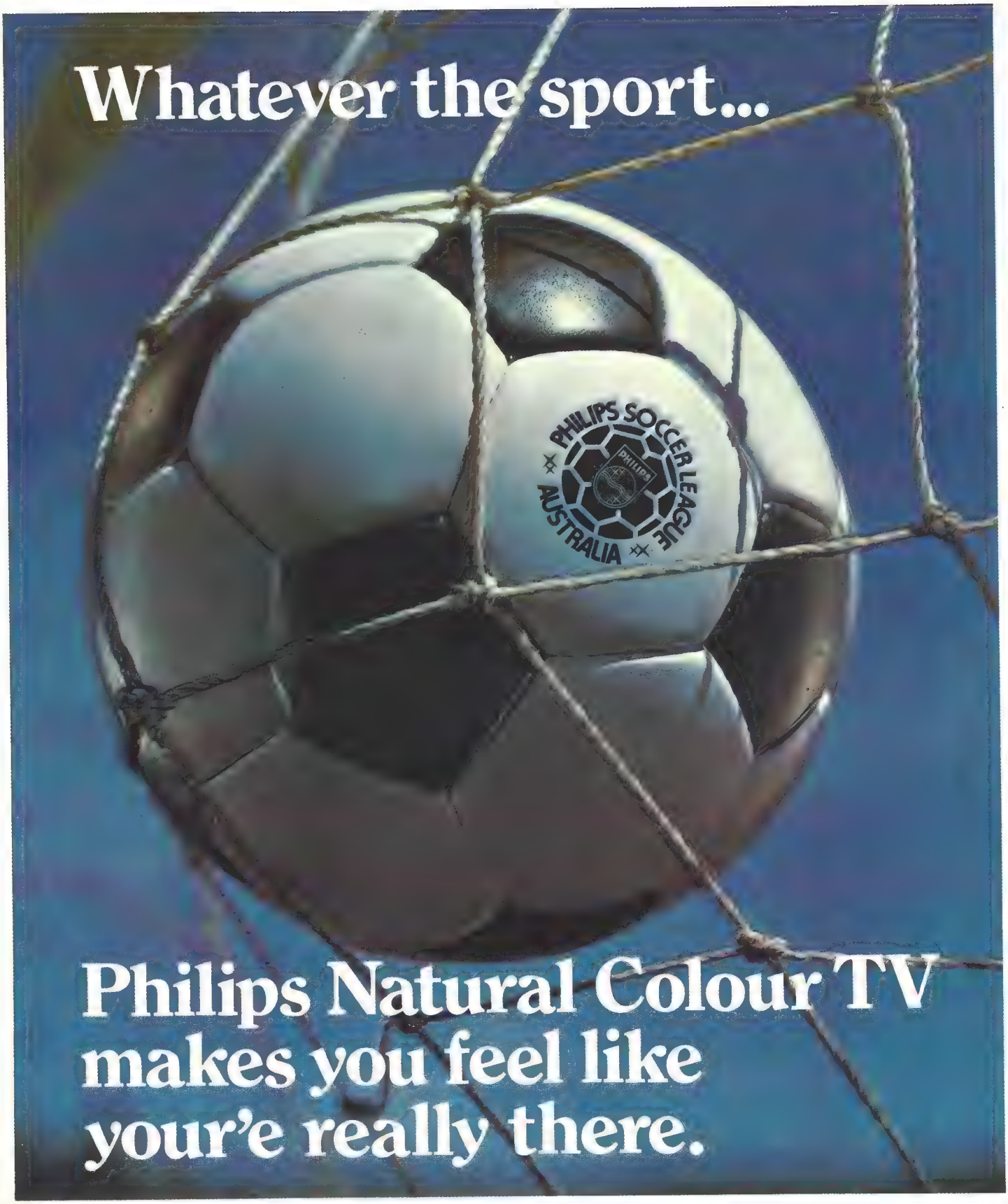
Born 11.12.60

Another local product developed in Victoria and who played a massive part in the success of the young Socceroos team that won the first section of the World Youth Tournament in New Zealand in 1978. He has since commanded a first team place with South Melbourne and as a central defender-libero he fits into the future plans of coach Gutendorf.

John Yzendoorn

Born 17.9.55

Has already had a tremendous season with his club Heidelberg and while not yet capped for Australia he seems certain to do so in the season ahead. He is a dangerous man when in the same team as striker Gary Cole and in a recent Philips League match was voted man of the match having laid on three of the four goals scored by his side.



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Ken Boden

Born 5.7.50

Has proved himself to be one of the most effective strikers ever to come to this country—particularly when he is playing with the Australian team he is positioned in such a way as to make the most of his valuable skill and speed and to provide an unenviable task for opposition defenders. He is bound to revel in the situation of participating in the great many international matches which are programmed for this year.

John Nyskohus

Born 16.10.51

First came to the notice of Jimmy Shoulder who regularly played him in the World Cup matches in 1977. Has found the going tough with his club Adelaide City this year where there is a goal famine and he is looking to provide some of the original attacking skill and initiative which has made him in previous seasons an extremely dangerous forward. The forthcoming internationals provide a severe test for this player.

Mark Jankovics

Born 5.4.56

Another local product from the St. George area where he played with the St. George team in the first Philips League season and then moved on to Marconi where he has settled down and has scored a great number of goals. His performance is sometimes marred with some inconsistency but this is often the case with great attacking players with a flair for scoring goals and he has every opportunity of becoming a regular national team striker.

Theo Selemidis

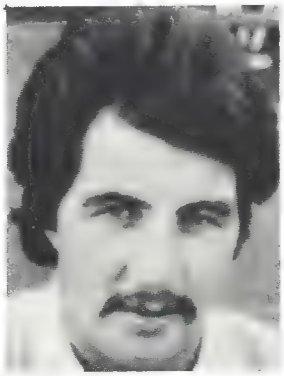
Born 27.10.59

Another wonderful discovery from the World Youth Tournament team who has now forced his way into the Heidelberg team. This player has excellent ball control and speed and in the recent clash against A.C. Milan he teamed up splendidly providing plenty of the ball to Cole and Jankovics and being instrumental in placing a through ball to Jankovics to enable the Australian team to win 2-1.

Yakka Banovic

Born 12.11.56

Young brilliant goalkeeper of the Heidelberg club who is currently the subject of considerable interest by the English club Derby County. A brilliant acrobatic performer, very keen to overcome any technical deficiencies that may now exist and this is borne out by constant coaching and training sessions that he carries out outside of the normal training routine. Australia is indeed fortunate to have such brilliant potential in goalkeepers ready to step into the national squad.



Kevin Mullen

Kevin is another young man who has been on the edge of selection for a season or two, but he has been held back by his mercurial temperament on the field. This is at complete variance with his sunny disposition off the field—and a complete surprise to the player himself who usually feels his indiscretions have been unduly harshly punished. If he could control his displeasure with the opposition and the officials as effectively as he can control the ball and his passing, he would be an automatic selection as Australia's right back.

John Coyne

Born 18.7.51

Had a particularly successful season with Brisbane City in 1979 and has continued to play extremely well when with the national team during the current season. He is a very aggressive player and one that will certainly make his mark when playing against our Asian opponents in the forthcoming World Cup series. Gutendorf, whilst appreciating the need for skills, also appreciates the need for rugged, strong, offensive tackling and Coyne provides this type of play.

John Kosmina

After an unusually successful introduction into the national team in 1976 and a string of fine performances in a disappointing World Cup campaign in 1977 Kosmina left Australia on transfer to Arsenal. Despite a spell on the first team bench and a number of appearances as substitute plus an entire UEFA Cup match in Yugoslavia, Kosmina was impatient with his apparent lack of progress at Highbury, and returned to West Adelaide for the 1979 season. He struggled to re-adjust to Philips League Soccer and did not come back to his best form until late in the season, but his evident talent and quality has persuaded Gutendorf to give him his chance to get back into the national team.

AUSTRALIA IN ACTION AGAINST ENGLAND

Photographs by courtesy of Anton Cermak

Great expectations!

By DAVID JACK

Irishmen, of course, are never short of expectations. But when such expectations come to fruition, that's something again.

This year, in the British International Tournament, Northern Ireland far surpassed all expectations by finishing on top.

That tournament, traditionally regarded as a two-horse race between the mighty England and Scotland, ended with Northern Ireland undefeated, their two wins and a draw yielding five points.

Scotland, World Cup qualifiers in 1974 and again in 1978—years when England failed to make the cut-off — filled bottom place with a miserable two points out of six.

So the men from the north of Ireland come to Australia as undisputed British champions: they've had a long wait for the title.

The last time it happened was in 1914.

There is no suggestion that this Irish turn-up had anything to do with kicking off the greatest "Donnybrook" the world has ever known a few months later!

The Irish, both north and south of the border, have always been great natural footballers. Trouble is, they rarely win anything.

For that reason alone, the wearers of the green, on their very first trip to Australia, may be excused if they are still celebrating what happened a few weeks ago in the Home International Tournament.

It is difficult to understand Ireland's lack of success in the international Soccer arena.

I said they have always been great natural players. Even restricting the names to the men from the north, we think of such giants of the game as Elisha Scott, Joe Bambrick, Peter Doherty, Billy Gillespie, Danny Blanchflower, Harry Gregg, Jimmy McIlroy, Pat Jennings, Terry Neill, George Best and the man who is here right now as manager of the touring team, my old friend Billy Bingham.

Perhaps Northern Ireland's greatest era was in the late 1950's when, under Peter Doherty's inspired managership, they produced a brand of football which would bear comparison with Argentina, Holland or West Germany of 1980.

It was brilliant stuff: it was magnificent to watch, with a constant emphasis on pure skill. But Northern Ireland won no championships.

I recall one international match in which the Irishmen gave distinguished opponents a complete runaround and finished up losing 1-0.

Jimmy McIlroy, one of several jokers in the Irish side, said: "That's another moral victory for us. What a pity we can't play badly and have a real victory!"

In 1958, however, Northern Ireland **DID** join the elite of world Soccer when they qualified for the finals of the World Cup in Sweden.

In the elimination Group, Ireland had to meet Portugal, a competent side, and Italy, odds-on favourites to top the Group. The Irishmen achieved what McIlroy described as a "Soccer miracle" by collecting five points from their four games, one more than the Italians, and qualifying for the finals in Sweden.

There, Peter Doherty and his bunch of unrated Irish interlopers, were grouped with West Germany, Argentina and Czechoslovakia.

Northern Ireland were expected to occupy last place. Surprise, surprise. They qualified for the last eight, along with West Germany as Argentina and Czechoslovakia departed for home.

Great days indeed. They bring back many personal happy memories for me.

I must not dwell on the past, though. The Northern Ireland team of 1980 is in Australia.

On this tour, we expect much from Northern Ireland.

It is a pity the big three from Arsenal, Pat Jennings, Pat Rice and Sammy Nelson, cannot be on tour. They have had a most exhausting, and bitterly disappointing, 1979-80 season and surely deserve a summer rest.

As deputy for Jennings, Middlesborough's Jim Platt will not disappoint anyone. Platt was voted among the top four goalkeepers in the English First Division this year and, bearing in mind the quality of others seeking votes, that is a measure of his outstanding ability.

Platt was here a few years ago when his club toured Australia.

Other Irishmen I look forward to seeing in action are the Manchester United defender Jimmy Nicholl, midfielder Martin O'Neill, and, in the forward line, Gerry Armstrong and Terry Cochrane.

These players have been watched, and admired, by Aussie sporting fans on such television shows as "Match of the Day", "Big League Soccer", and "The Big Match".

We know their capabilities. We look forward to a closer look than TV can provide.

It is a pleasure to welcome manager Billy Bingham and his Northern Ireland international players to Australia.

A most appropriate greeting might be . . . "CEAD MILE FAILTE".

And if you don't know what that means, you'd better ask an Irishman!

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A night to remember

By DAVID JACK

It was a night to remember. It was not the most skilful game of Soccer ever seen: neither was it thrill-a-minute stuff to keep spectators on the edge of their seats.

Yet the Australia v England Centenary match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on the night of May 31 will surely live for a long time in the memory of all who were present.

The setting was magnificent. Soccer fans arriving for the match admitted they were staggered at the brilliance of the lighting system, a system born, oddly enough, out of a cricket civil war. Sydney may well feel proud of its SCG floodlights. And on the night of the Centenary international, Sydney Soccer fans, accustomed to the "ten candle power" illuminations at most grounds, thanked Kerry Packer and his mercenaries for shedding light on sport in this city.

Spectators with seats in the Brewongle stand were shown something else that was new at the SCG. The $4,000,000 edifice was, believe it or not, comparable to the sort of stands which European and South American Soccer followers take for granted.

Centenary celebrations, however, are not about floodlights and plush seating. This was the first time Australia and England had played each other in a full "A" international match. This is why it was an occasion to remember.

The critics could claim, justifiably, that England's first XI was not playing.

That was not a deliberate slight. England's top 22 players had more vital business to attend to as they prepared for the European Championships in Italy, starting less than a fortnight after the SCG game. Manager Ron Greenwood, however, did bring a few members of his 22-strong international squad.

There was the magnificent Paul Mariner in the forward line and the vastly-experienced Trevor Cherry—captain for the night—at right-back.

There was a brilliant goalkeeper from Manchester City called Joe Corrigan: his impeccable handling of the ball must have caused the fans to wonder why Corrigan has to take third place in England's goalkeeper queue behind Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton.

Greenwood also brought excellent midfielders, Glen Hoddle and Brian Robson, to the Centenary celebrations, stating that one or the other would make the 22 for the European Championships.

Third team players or not, England paraded a squad of stars, most of them valued at $1,000,000-plus on the inflated UK transfer market.

To give some idea of the strength at Greenwood's disposal, Kevin Reeves, who cost his club, Manchester City, much more than $2,000,000 when bought from Norwich City, had to be content with a place on the substitutes' bench!

Against such opposition, Australia was given little hope.

Yet the opening five minutes produced clear scoring chances for the underdogs, though the openings were lost through poor shooting and good goalkeeping.

Having survived the unexpected early onslaught, the Englishmen took complete control for the remainder of the first half. They scored simple goals—the result of confusion in a disorganised Australian defence—through their two best men, Hoddle and Mariner.

At half-time, with the Socceroos two down and seemingly heading for a major defeat, the match underwent a complete change.

Aussie coach Rudi Gutendorf played his trump card by bringing on a winger with the speed of a gazelle called Peter Sharne from the Marconi club.

Sharne was in magical form as, time after time, he ripped into the England defence, rounding captain Cherry at will. All of a sudden, the Australian fans sat up and took notice.

Having despaired for half of the match, they began to realise the cause was not lost.

Australia, inspired by Sharne's success, created two or three reasonable goalscoring chances and, though these were not accepted, they did emphasise that there were two pretty useful teams at the SCG . . . not just one.

Sharne, by the way, told me later that he was surprised that the English defence was not particularly fast. Against a player of Sharne's speed, who **DOES** look fast?

England also created openings, only to waste them. At this stage of the game, Australia's young goalkeeper, Greg Woodhouse, who might have been blamed for England's second goal, made amends by producing outstanding form to deny the Englishmen further goals.

With only a couple of minutes to go, Sharne again slipped like a ghost through England's defence, pouncing on a bad pass back: he attempted to round goalkeeper Corrigan but was brought down. It had to be a penalty kick. And the kick was converted in professional style by Gary Cole.

So the Centenary international match ended in victory for England, whose 2-1 win meant the Winfield Cup would travel to London to join many other trophies at English Football Association headquarters in Lancaster Gate.

A night to remember? Undoubtedly.

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WHEN YOU KNOW YOUR BUSINESS IT SHOWS.

The ASF forms marketing company

The ASF has formed a new marketing company called Australian Soccer Federation Marketing Ltd. to look after the marketing, promotion and commercial aspects related to the development of soccer in Australia.

Mr. Rik Booth has been appointed as Executive Director of the new company and he will be supported by a Marketing and Promotions Manager, and a Public Relations and Publicity Manager.

Mr. John Frank, the General Manager of the Philips League will also work closely with the new marketing team.

The company's responsibilities include the development of sponsorship and commercial involvement in the various levels of Australian soccer including the Australian National Squad, National Youth Squad, Philips League, State League, Youth and Junior soccer. In fact, virtually every level and aspect of the game.

It will handle liaison on all television broadcasting and associated activities, a licensing programme, the promotion of specific international matches and tournaments, the development of new tournaments, soccer publications, liaison and appointment of official suppliers, preparation of training and educational material, and general media advertising to promote the game.

On the public relations side, it will handle the promotion and publicity of the Australian National and Youth Squads with particular emphasis on the 1981 World Youth Championships for the Coca-Cola Cup being held in Australia, Youth and Junior soccer, and all other levels and grades of the game throughout the country.

It will be particularly concerned with the promotion and building of the public image and awareness of players within the National, Youth and Philips League teams.

It will liaise with television, broadcast and print media in the general promotion of the game and also with overseas media and Associations in matters pertinent to international tournaments and matches.

The company has only just been formed and was responsible for the securing of the Winfield sponsorship for the England v Australia match, plus the general promotion of that game. Interviews are now being conducted for the positions of the Marketing Manager and Public Relations Manager and announcements of those appointments are expected shortly.

The establishment of a professional marketing company to handle the commercial aspects related to the development of soccer within Australia is viewed as a progressive move by the code and one which will benefit the game greatly in the same manner as similar structures that have been established by the VFL and Rugby League.

The new Executive Director feels that the task ahead is an enormous challenge. Soccer is rapidly becoming a dominant participatory sport at a junior level but has inherent problems in attracting spectators to its amateur and professional League games as well as in some cases, even its international matches and tournaments.

However, as a code it is so embryonic that it provides fertile ground for imaginative programmes to be developed that will attract commercial sponsorship and involvement. Quite frankly, soccer has not even begun to happen in this country.

There is a great misconception amongst some sectors of the Australian public that it is an ethnic sport. It is a universal sport that transgresses ethnic and cultural backgrounds and it is utterly inevitable that the sport will continue to grow from both a participatory and spectator viewpoint in exactly the same way as it currently is in other developing nations such as the United States and Canada.

There are similar misconceptions that soccer is competitive to Rugby League, Rugby Union or VFL football.

In America, soccer is literally sweeping the country at both participatory and spectator level and yet is developing in a manner that is not detracting from the popularity of other sporting codes such as American football and baseball. The same thing will happen here where children who simply do not wish to play Rugby or VFL codes will at least have an alternative. In many cases, children will probably play two football codes.

From a spectator viewpoint, if we are able to promote the game properly, and in turn the standards of soccer rise to comparable levels of play as can be seen overseas, then we will attract a completely new type of audience to watch the game both at the events themselves and on television. These will be people who do not currently watch Rugby League or VFL. The sport will probably become somewhat family oriented attracting as it is in America a huge proportion of female followers both at teenage and older levels. Ultimately we will see mum, dad and the kids spending a Saturday or Sunday afternoon at a match.

There are many hurdles to overcome. Many of these are prejudices created by misunderstandings but since our plans and activities will stretch over the next decade we believe that we will ultimately achieve our goal of soccer becoming accepted and recognised by a great number of Australians as one of our truly national sports.

All the basic ingredients exist in terms of numbers of Australian players, an ever-increasing professionalism amongst our coaches and trainers, a National League in the PSL, and the brilliance of Rudi Gutendorf and his incredible success in the improvement of our National and Youth Squads. Now finally a team of marketing men and women whose main aim is to attract commercial involvement in the sport which in turn, will attract funds which can be ploughed back into the development of the game at all levels from the improvement of facilities, ultimately proper full-time professionalism of our players, greater media exposure and better coaching and training facilities.

The Australian Soccer Federation wishes to thank
***Malcolm Brodie** and*
The Belfast Telegraph
for their assistance in the production of this programme

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CHILE

The visit of the Chilean national team in August will provide the Australian Soccer public with an entree to the class, style and power of South American football.
The visit provides considerable scope as a major national drawcard. Behind Brazil and Argentina the giants of Latin American Soccer, Chile vies with Uruguay and Paraguay as the next major force and as such have the potential for moving through to the World Cup Final in 1982.
The parallels between both Chile and Australia in their preparation to ensure qualification for the 1982 World Cup finals are close.
Chile, along with Australia failed to qualify for the finals for the last World Cup, therefore as with Australia, there has been considerable soul searching and renewed preparation on the part of the Chilean side to ensure that it qualifies for Spain in 1982.

The young Australian Socceroos under Rudi Gutendorf with their great performance against England gained the respect of all local supporters, the English press and established their credentials as a team on the way to Spain.

Chile has recently played in countless tournaments in South America and the visit to Australia is just a further part of an extensive build up in readiness for the first of the qualifying matches. We can rest assured that we will see a team full of fight and spirit and flair and also a team which will be fully supported in this country by many thousands of ex-patriot South Americans. In Sydney we particularly remember the fantastic support that Uruguay enjoyed when they played here.

The dates proposed for the Chile team are as follows:

Thursday, 14th August — Olympic Park, Melbourne — Chile v Australia
Kick off 8.00 p.m.

Sunday, 17th August — Sydney Cricket Ground — Chile v Australia
Kick off 3.00 p.m.

Wednesday, 20th August — Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide — Chile v Australia
Kick off 8.00 p.m.

Sunday, 24th August — Bruce Stadium, Canberra — Chile v ACT Select

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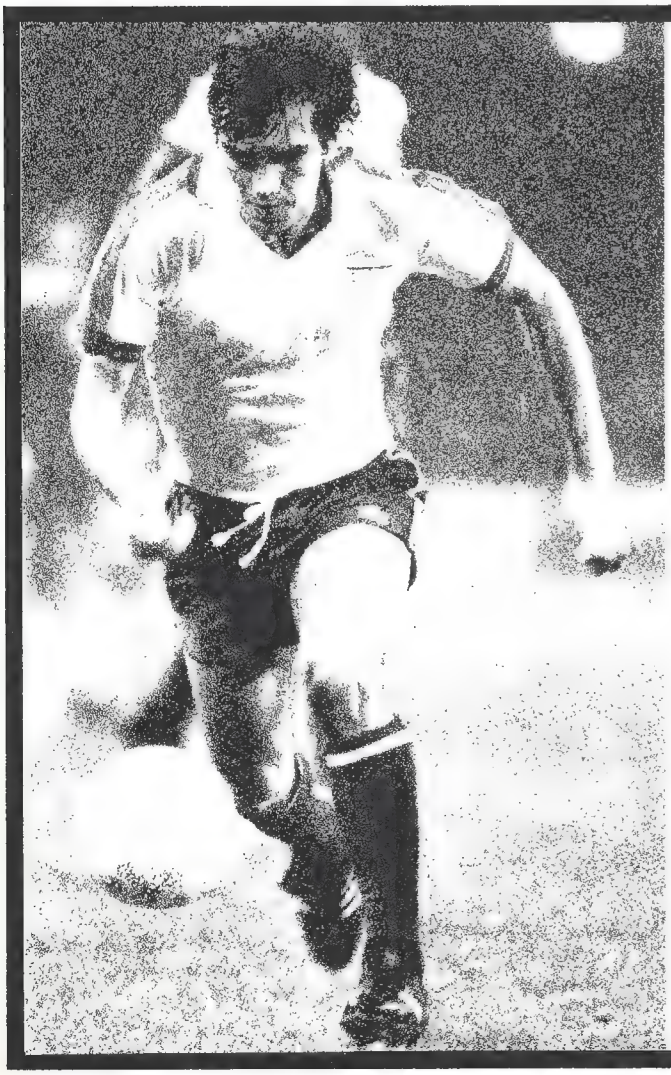

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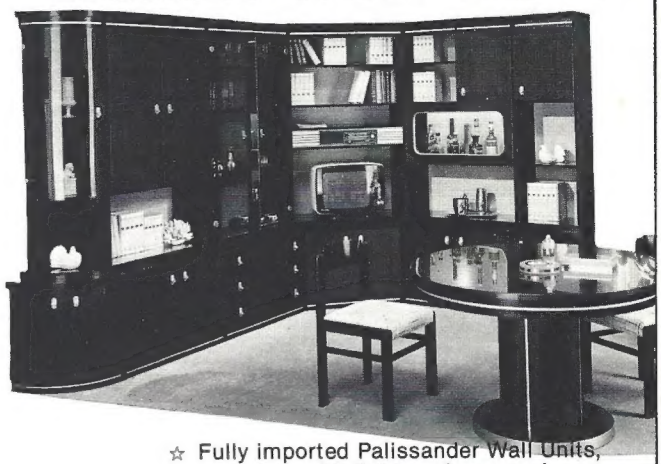

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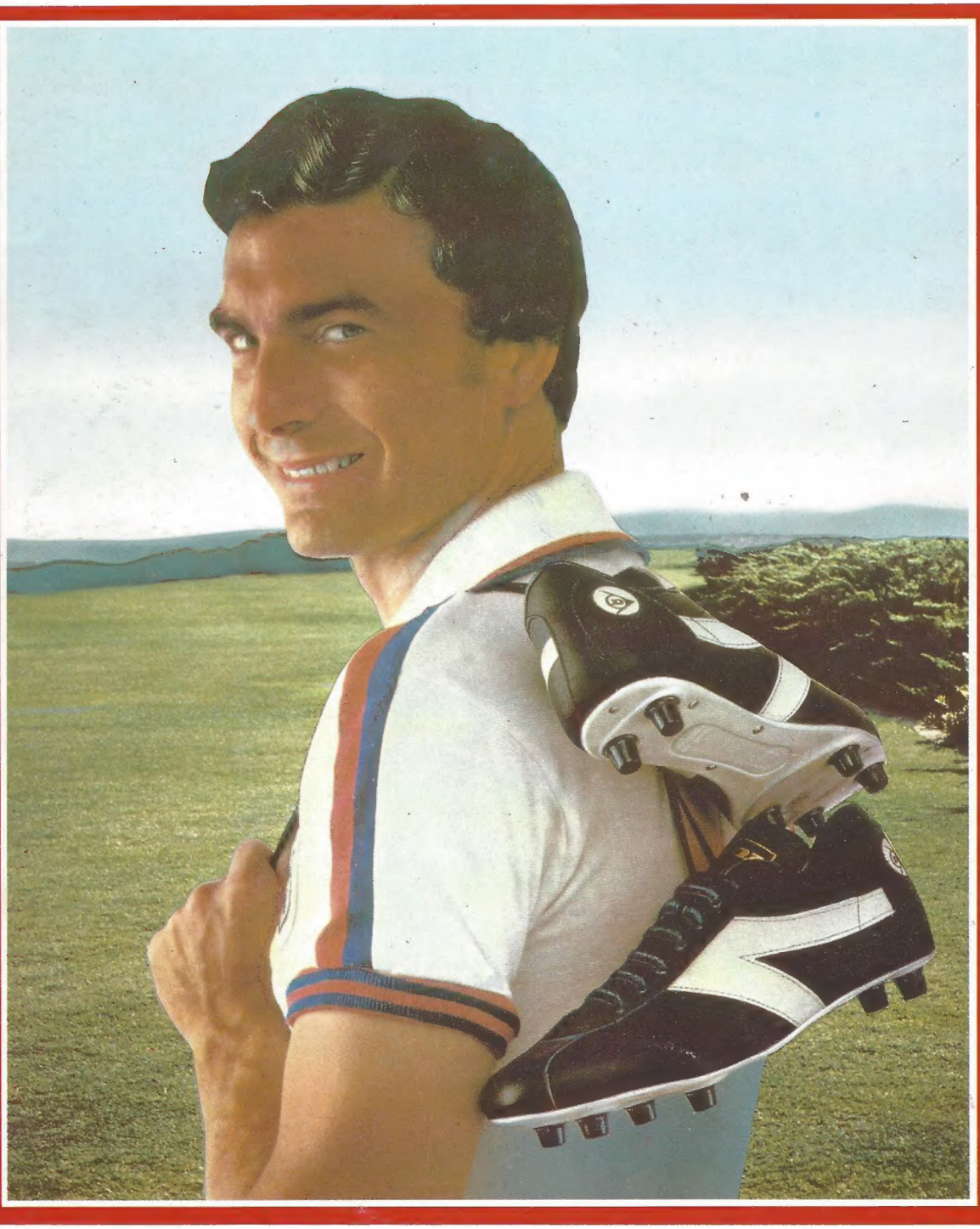

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